



JURISPRUDENCE AND PHILOSOPHY OF LAW: A SELECT BIBLIOGRAPHY

BOOKS

Wacks, Raymond. *Philosophy of Law: A Very Short Introduction*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2006.

Location: Compact Shelving, [K230 W29 A37 2006](#)

This book is indeed short—127 pages, including the index. If you don't know the first thing about legal philosophy, you can learn some of the key terms and major figures here. Look for the list of further readings in the back of the book.

Sinha, S. Prakash. *Jurisprudence, Legal Philosophy, in a Nutshell*. St. Paul, Minn.: West Publishing, 1993.

Location: Reserves, [K231 S57 1993](#)

Part of the West Nutshell Series, this book covers the major theories of law, old and new. It begins with the non-universality of law, discussing legal theories from Western and Eastern civilizations, and spends a lot of time on ancient traditions. There is no bibliography or list of suggested readings.

Coleman, Jules and Scott Shapiro, eds. *The Oxford Handbook of Jurisprudence and the Philosophy of Law*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2004.

Location: Reference, [K230 O95 A36 2004](#)

A collection of 24 essays by leading legal theorists. Beginning with the classical tradition, the essays cover all the essential themes in jurisprudence and legal philosophy, ending with three interdisciplinary chapters: Law and Language, Law and Objectivity, and Law, Sexual Orientation and Gender. The lack of footnotes, clear writing style, and detailed treatment of topics make this book a good starting point for in-depth research.

Bix, Brian. *A Dictionary of Legal Theory*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2004.

Location: Reference, [K204 B59 2004](#)

Short, easy-to-read entries. Terms are arranged alphabetically and include theorists (e.g., Jeremy Bentham), concepts (e.g., pragmatism), and terms of art (e.g., constructive interpretation). The entries focus on U.S. and English law, and there are no entries on authors or theorists who were alive at the time of publication.

D'Amato, Anthony, ed. *Analytic Jurisprudence Anthology*. Cincinnati, Ohio: Anderson Publishing, 1996.

Location: Compact Shelving, [K235 A53 1996](#)

Analytic jurisprudence deals with the “internalities” of law—what law is, how it works, and whether it is consistent. D'Amato's book collects some of the major writings about analytic jurisprudence, organizing them into topical chapters (e.g., Natural Law, Realism, and Justice). Each primary source is followed by a series of study questions. Though a great source, the book is hurt by not having a topical index.



Leiter, Brian. *Naturalizing Jurisprudence: Essays on American Legal Realism and Naturalism in Legal Philosophy*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2007.

Location: Compact Shelving, [K341 L45 2007](#)

Collection of nine essays on American legal realism, a major movement in 20th-century legal scholarship. The essays are more technical than encyclopedia or handbook entries, which means they are not good for beginning research. However, they cover certain topics (e.g., science and methodology in legal theory) that do not receive detailed treatment elsewhere.

WEB SITES

[Internet Encyclopedia of Philosophy](#)

Good site for beginners. The “philosophy of law” entry is divided into three broad topics: analytic jurisprudence, normative jurisprudence, and critical theories of law. There is also an extensive bibliography following the entries.

[Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy](#)

A search for “law” on The Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy yields 611 entries. Not all of them are relevant, but many are. Look for entries on narrower issues here than on other web sites (e.g., [Law and Language](#) or [Civil Disobedience](#)).

[Legal Theory Blog](#)

Maintained by Lawrence B. Solum, a professor of law and philosophy at the University of Illinois. (Visit his home page [here](#).) The blog contains an extensive bibliography and a calendar of workshops and seminars on legal theory. There is also a legal theory lexicon, though, unfortunately, the terms are not alphabetized.

[Social Science Research Network](#)

List of thousands of research papers on jurisprudence and legal philosophy. Many are available free in full text. Use the Search feature to narrow the results list. Look for papers on esoteric—but fascinating—topics (e.g., [Jesus’ Legal Theory—A Rabbinic Interpretation](#)).

[Law and Economics](#)

Economic approaches to law are a relatively recent area of study. This web site, which is a part of [Findlaw.com](#), links to bibliographies, associations, academic programs, and electronic journals, all of which pertain to law and economics. One of the best links on the site leads to Edward Elgar’s masterful—but hard to read—[Encyclopedia of Law and Economics](#).

[Legal Ethics](#)

This blog, maintained primarily by [David Hricik](#) of Mercer University, offers articles on fee sharing, rules of conduct, attorney-client privilege, confidentiality, and other ethical issues.